Library Website

The library's website, accessible at library.mcmaster.ca, provides information about library hours, facilities, services, and the latest news about McMaster libraries. It also provides access to the library's print and online resources via the library catalogue, article databases, and the e-journal portal.

Whether your assignment requires you to find books, scholarly articles, newspapers, or primary sources, these can all be found using the library's website.

The website is your portal for access to resources. Library materials can only be accessed through the library website, so it is important to begin your research at library.mcmaster.ca. From here, you can search and retrieve anything the library owns, from on or off campus

Your library account is where you'll sign in to place books on hold or renew the books you have checked out. This is also where you'll find your account information like due dates or overdue fines.

The FAQ page is a great resource to check for all your burning questions. It is likely that if you have a question, other students have too! You can type your question in the search box or check out the topics along the right-side menu. If your question is not answered in the FAQ, send library staff an email at library@mcmaster.ca

When you're ready to search for resources, it's important to know the difference between the 'discovery' and 'catalogue' search boxes.

Discovery searches both the Library's catalogue and other subscription and open access databases. You should use the discovery tab when you want to do a general search on the extent of resources on a topic which *may* be part of the collections at McMaster libraries or want to find a specific article using the article title or its DOI (Digital Object Identifier).

Keep in mind that the Discovery search does not search ALL of Mac's library holdings, some databases and online journals will not show in your search results, so it's important to remember that just because you can't find what you're looking for in a discovery search, doesn't mean the library doesn't have it.

Catalogue searches the physical and online holdings of McMaster's four libraries. You can search by title, author, or subject. You should use the catalogue tab when you want to find a specific item, such as a book, a journal, or a movie, that is included in the collections at McMaster libraries or if you want to exclude individual articles from your results.

The biggest difference between discovery and catalogues searches is that discovery searches show individual articles while the catalogue does not.

From the homepage, use the databases tab when you are beginning your research and looking to see what may be available. Click on the tab. From here, you can search for a specific database such as Project Muse or EBSCOhost databases. Remember, this is not a search bar for your keywords, but the name of a database.

Or you can use the dropdown menu to find databases related to your subject, such as social science. Browsing by subject matter will result in a list of databases that contain information relevant to

that discipline. The suggested Best Bets are great places to start, especially if you are feeling overwhelmed or not sure which database to choose.

The Online Journals tab is the best place to search if you already have the citation information for an article. Say you found an article that you want to read, but you're not sure which database it might be in.

Click the Online Journals tab, and search for the journal title where the article was published. If the library has access, you can then search for the article title directly in the journal.

Searching for a specific journal also allows you to browse all issues the library has access to. There might be a specific journal that you know publishes articles relevant to your research topic. You can typically search for your keywords within a specific journal.

Research guides are helpful as a starting point for your research. Choosing the 'research guides' tab will let you search for general guides or guides by subject and course. These guides are designed to help you with research skills. Later on in this module we will take a closer look at these guides.